



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 460

LCO No. 2120

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Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING LOW-INCOME ENERGY RATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before June 30,
2 2011, the Department of Public Utility Control shall conduct a
3 proceeding regarding development of discounted rates for service
4 provided by gas and electric distribution companies, as defined in
5 section 16-1 of the general statutes, to low-income customers. Such
6 proceeding shall include, but not be limited to, review of the current
7 and future availability of rate discounts for individuals who receive
8 means-tested assistance administered by the state or federal
9 governments through the electricity purchasing pool operated by the
10 Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section 16a-14e of the
11 general statutes, energy assistance benefits available through any plan
12 adopted pursuant to section 16a-41a of the general statutes or through
13 state funded or administered programs, conservation assistance
14 available pursuant to section 16-32f or 16-245m of the general statutes,
15 assistance funded or administered by the Department of Social
16 Services or the Office of Policy and Management, renewable energy
17 resource assistance available pursuant to section 16-245n of the general

18 statutes, or matching payment program benefits available pursuant to
19 subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the general statutes. The
20 Department of Public Utility Control shall (1) coordinate resources and
21 programs, to the extent practicable; (2) develop rates that take into
22 account the indigency of persons of poverty status and allow such
23 persons' households to meet the costs of essential energy needs; (3)
24 require the household to agree to have a home energy audit as a
25 prerequisite to qualification; and (4) prepare an analysis of the benefits
26 and anticipated costs of such discounted rates.

27 (b) The Department of Public Utility Control shall order (1) filing by
28 each gas or electric company of proposed rates consistent with the
29 department's decision pursuant to subsection (a) of this section not
30 later than sixty days after its issuance, and (2) appropriate modification
31 of existing low-income programs, including the matching payment
32 program. Each company shall conduct outreach to make its low-
33 income discounted rates available to eligible customers and report to
34 the Department of Public Utility Control at least annually regarding its
35 outreach activities and the results of such activities.

36 (c) The cost of discounted rates and related outreach activities
37 pursuant to this section shall be included in the rates charged to all
38 other customers as follows: (1) An electric distribution company shall
39 recover such costs on a semiannual basis through the systems benefits
40 charge, and (2) a gas company shall recover such costs on a
41 semiannual basis through a public benefits charge developed and
42 approved by the Department of Public Utility Control.

43 (d) On or before July 1, 2012, the Department of Public Utility
44 Control shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
45 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
46 having cognizance of matters relating to energy regarding the benefits
47 and costs of the discounted rates established pursuant to subsection (a)
48 of this section and any recommended modifications.

49 (e) The Department of Public Utility Control shall adopt regulations,

50 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
51 to implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish a low-income discount rate for gas and electric customers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]